THE METHOD OF Applying of Truſſes

Invented and Made by
ROBERT BRAND, of Long-Acre.

LONDON.

THE TRUE METHOD OF Applying of Truſſes, FOR THE CURE OF RUPTURES; In the GROINS and SCROTUM:

By Mr. BRAND;
The Inventer of the ELESTICK TRUSSES,
And TRUSS-MAKER to his MAJESTY's ROYAL HOSPITAL, AT *GREENWICH.*

LONDON:

PRINTED for the AUTHOR, and Sold by him at his Houſe (No. 31,) Long-Acre; where he gives Advice Gratis in all Caſes of Ruptures, every Morning from Eight to Ten, Saturdays Excepted, as he then attends the Royal Hoſpital.

M DCC LXXI.

TO

Dr. LIVINSTON;

SIR,

I Have always thought myſelf much obliged to you for your repeated advice to me in the early part of my Study for the Relief of myſelf and others, and in particular for the great variety of the differant *Pelveces* you always furniſhed me with, of Men, Women, and Children, wether I have profited by it or not, the advice was good, and my obligations to you the ſame: I therefore Deſire the Favour of your acceptance of the following

Method of applying of Truſſes; not only as a Proof of my eſtimation of your Judgement, but as a mark of the Gratitude of

Sir,

Your moſt humble Servant,

ROBERT BRAND.

Long-Acre,
January 1ſt
1771.

THE

THE TRUE METHOD OF APPLYING OF TRUSSES.

MY Truſs is only intended for the benefit of ſuch Ruptures in the Groin as there is a poſſibility of returning again into the Abdomin, tho' I make others of a different conſtruction according to the ſituation of the part from whence it proceeds, and other circumſtances that may attend it.

BEFORE I give any directions how to apply my Truſs, it may be proper to ſay ſomething with regard to the ſafeſt and eaſieſt manner of reducing the Inteſtine, when

when fallen down; and which is the method I have always followed with great ſucceſs.

If the Rupture is at the time much enlarged, or painful, it will be of great ſervice to the Patient, before the reduction is attempted. to take a gentle cooling purgative, ſuch as a decoction of Tamarinds with Sena, or a ſolution of Salts and Manna; and if he is of a Plethoric or full habit of body, to let a moderate quantity of blood will be proper; and at the ſame time the parts ſhould be fomented with a piece of flannel wrung out of a warm decoction of emolient herbs, ſuch as Camomile Flowers, Mallows, &c.

After theſe preparations, you ſhould proceed in the following manner: Lay the Patient upon his back in ſuch a poſture that his Buttocks may be conſiderably higher than his Head, as by that means the Bowels that are within the Belly, will fall more towards the Breaſt and not only give way to what is to be returned but be of ſome aſſiſtance to the reduction. Then you muſt examine carefully as to the ſituation of the Teſticles;

Teſticles; and if you find they are forced up towards the ſides of the Scrotum by the ſize of the Rupture, you muſt be very cautious not to ſqueeze them in your attempt. If you find them compreſſed at the bottom of the Scrotum, you muſt with the fore-finger and thumb of one hand ſeparate them from the Ruptured part, and with the ſame fingers of the other hand take hold of the upper part that is next the Ring of the Muſcles or place from whence the Rupture comes out, and work it gently in, in the ſame manner as you obſerve Women do with a Cow's Teats when they milk her. By obſerving this method you will never be apt to ſtrain the Rings of the Muſcles nor hurt the Inteſtine ſo as to occaſion an inflamation of any of theſe parts.

As to the application of the Truſs, it will be more convenient to put it ſlack round the Patients Body before he is laid down, as by his getting up after the reduction there might be ſome riſque of the Bowel falling down again. Take hold of each end of the ſpring and open it wide enough to receive his body ſide-ways, and after you have got the Bowel fairly reduced,

apply

apply the Cuſhion of the Truſs upon the Rings or Orifice from whence the Bowel came out. It muſt have a gentle hold of the upper part of the Os pubis or Share-bone, but take care it is not placed too high or too low: The Spring will be a direction, which ſhould come round the Os Iliûm near the juncture of the Thigh-bones and touch the Rump juſt where the clift of the Buttocks begin; which parts are called by the Anotomiſts, the Great Troch-anter of the Thigh-bone, and the middle of the Os Sacrum.

Always keep under the Cuſhion, four fold of old coarſe linnen, which will keep the part cool and eaſy and prevent the Cuſhion being ſpoiled by the moiſture of the Skin. It will be a great addition to the Truſs, if for Six or Seven weeks, or longer the parts are bathed with very cold Water every Night and Morning, which may be done conveniently in the following manner, take a piece of large linnen cloth, fold it up pretty thick ſo as to be about ſix or ſeven inches ſquare, a few ſtitches may be put into it to keep the folds together; dip it into a Baſon of cold Water, give it a

ſqueeze

ſqueeze and apply it to the Scrotum and Groin, and as it loſes it's coldneſs dip it in the Water again and again which ſhould be continued for half an hour at a time: It is neceſſary that the Patients Breeches ſhould be very long of the Thighs ſo as to allow the waiſtband to come well up on the Pelves above the Truſs, for if it bear thereon it will add ſo much to the preſure which will make it very uneaſy.

I muſt here adviſe my reader, that in examining any thing like a Rupture, he does not miſtake a Swelling of the Spermatic Chord, or one in the Groin for one, as by handling any thing of that kind roughly, he may not only give the Patient an exquiſite deal of pain, but do great miſchief: If it is really a Rupture, gentle means, without being in too great a hurry will anſwer beſt. I have been frequently ſhocked at the barbarous treatment I have ſeen ſome Surgeons uſe their Patients with upon Swellings, I was certain were not cauſed by a Rupture, but as I was not bred a Surgeon, they treated my counſel with contempt, tho' they ſoon found their own miſtake and their attempts in vain.

My

My experience in theſe matters took its firſt riſe from my being ſubject to that complaint myſelf, having tryed all the difierent kind of Truſſes that have been uſed and recommended by Authors for many Years back, but found the beſt of them ſubject to ſome inconveniency or other, however as I was originally a Mechanick, I fell to work myſelf with an intention to avoid the inconveniencies of thoſe I had uſed, and after trying ſeveral differant new forms, I at laſt fell upon that which I now offer to the Public, and has given ſo much ſatisfaction to all who have had of them. As to any further knowledge I have of Ruptures (beſides what I had from my own experience) I am obliged to ſome Gentlemen of the Faculty, particularly Doctor Hunter, Doctor Livenſton, and Doctor Barry, the Books he recommended to my peruſial. When I put you in mind how rediculous the Surgeons of former Times appear now a Days when they rejected *Frere Jaque's* new method of Cuting for the Stone, for no other reaſon but becauſe he was not a regular bred Surgeon, I hope no impartial Gentleman of the Faculty will condemn my Truſs till he can prove

prove it's having any deficiency, and has compared it very narrowly with others that continue in uſe, The recommendation of thoſe who have experienced it's beneſit would be ſufficient, but moſt People who are ſubject to any diſorder of that kind are fond of concealing it and conſequently will never mention any thing of my Truſs. However the preference I have met with to others. who were ſtrongly recommended by numbers of the Faculty, in being conſtituted Truſs-Maker to his Majeſty's Royal Hoſpital at Greenwich; may give the Publie ſome Idea of it's Merit,. even when a Surgeon in this Metropolous, and *W. B.* of the College of Surgeons at Parris, and a Bedſtead-Maker with a Letter of recommending him, Signed with a liſt of Surgeons names to it as long as my Arm; it is well known that theſe Gentlemen did ſtand a fair Tryal with me every Day almoſt for two Months before the Phyſians and Surgeons of the Royal Hoſpital made their Report of the Candidates different Merits; on which I was appointed Eleſtick Truſs-Maker, by that Honourable Board of Directors of his Majeſty's Royal Hoſpital.

I think

I THINK it would be here an unpardonable offence to posterity, not to inform my readers without fear or favour to mankind, that to this day a Surgeon of the greatest eminence recommends a Shoemaker to all his Ruptured Patients, for to make the Trusses for them, and I am very certain that he does not know Iron from Steel, when it is made out of the common sizes of the bars thereof. This I have from jobbing Smiths some of those the seller has employed ever since he was converted from a Sutter into a Truss Maker, it is this eminent Surgeon and Sutter, that Councellor Brand, at Mays Hill. Greenwich, means in his letter therefrom to me, which is hereafter inserted amongst more sent me, and Certificates of the Efficacy of my Trusses above all others they had made use of. Of which is first Dr. Monro's report to the Society at Edinburgh, which Society laid my new invented Trusses and Memorial before Dr. Monro, for him to pass his judgement on them, and very soon after I had invented these Trusses, I had an opportunity of sending some of them to Sarjeant Ranby, which brought his letter to me here inserted.

To

To Robert Brand, Cutler, in Aberdeen.

SIR,

SOME time ago, I believe about the time you mention, a Soldier left two Truſſes at my houſe, and in a day or two afterwards took them away, and I underſtood from my ſervant that he was the maker of them, they appeared to me to vary a little from the common ones: However, when you come up in June, bring ſome with you, which, if upon trial anſwer better than thoſe uſed now, you will certainly meet with encouragement,

I am,

Your moſt obedient Servant,

J. RANBY.

Chelſea College,
April 10, 1764.

That

That I bought one of these Trusses from the bearer, Robert Brand Cutler, and that it has done better with me than one I had from England, or one I had made in this place; is in justice and gratitude to his merit.

Attested at Aberdeen, May 30th, 1764. By

J. Ogleby,

Minister, at Aberdeen.

The bearer desires me to add (which is indeed truth) that this Truss is so very convenient, that I can walk and do every thing else as freely with it as if I had no ailment at all.

J. O.

In justice and gratitude to Robert Brand, Truss Maker, in Aberdeen, I acknowledge that I have had a Rupture for these five years, that about that time, I was an invalid,

lid, doing garriſon duty at the Iſland of Guernſey, I had a Truſs purchaſed at London for me by Mr. Roſe, the King's receiver in the iſland; which I wore, but with great pain for the ſpace of four years; I then got a Truſs which came from Chelſea Hoſpital, but with no better ſucceſs; untill about a month ago, I purchaſed one from Mr. Brand, being a ſingle Truſs and fitted for the right ſide, which has anſwered the intent, by giving me no pain in my walking, keeps up the Rupture, and without the incumberance of a Thigh ſtrap: Is atteſted to be truth by me, this 30th Day of May, 1764.

ALEXANDER FORBES.

Aberdeen.

The above declaration is atteſted by me John Dye, of Tilligrieg, one of His Majeſty's Juſtices of the Peace for the County of Aberdeen,

JOHN DYE, J. P.

Aberdeen,
May 30, 1764.

I Doc-

I Doctor Thomas Livingston, Physician to the Infirmary at Aberdeen, do hereby certify that Robert Brand, Cutler, in this City, has bestowed great pains and attention in contriving a new construction of Rupture Trusses, which for ease, as well as prevention of the disease, seems to answer better than the ordinary Trusses formerly in use, and it consists with my particular knowledge that many People have used them with great benefit and satisfaction..

Attested by THOMAS LIVINGTON.

Aberdeen June 2d,
1764.

TO

TO ROBERT BRAND,
CUTLER, and TRUSS-MAKER,
In *Aberdeen:*

SIR,

YOU have the Report Dr. Monro gives the Society of Arts, on the back of your Memorial, which I returned this Day to Mr. Barckley, who ſaid it would make nothing as to Premium: after his reſpectful Compliments to the Honourable Society: Says the Truſſes Mr. Brand preſents is no new Invention, as there is of the ſame kind and ſame materials uſed by moſt Surgeons in Europe for many Years paſt, the only eſential circumſtance is the Circular Steel Spring is more ſtrict than thoſe in common uſe, which makes them ſit eaſier on the Patient, and better fit Perſons of different Sizes; and adds that this laſt is ſcarce worth obſervation, as each Perſon ought to have his meaſure taken on the moſt Accurate manner. *March* 6th 1765.

Edenbrough,
March 7th 1765.

JOHN PARRIE.

I ſhall here only obſerve that there is a Contradiction in this Report, with Intention to give Merit, where I never found a great deal thereof in Truſſes, and as it is intirely out of their Power, becauſe it is impoſſible for a Surgeon, were he the greateſt genious in the World, to cauſe ever ſo ingenious a Workman to Work directly on the principle laid before him by the Inventor thereof, however I ſhall here refer the whole to the Canded Reader.

To Mr. BRAND, in Great-Peter's-Street,
Weſtminſter.

SIR,

THE Machine you laſt left with me, does its office very well, and ſits eaſy.

Your humble Servant,

J. B.

Greenwich
Auguſt 7th 1765.

Mr.

Mr. BRAND,

AFTER a Variety of Truſſes I have made uſe of from different Perſons recommended to me by a Surgeon of great character in Town, which did not do their Office; yours that I have now on, and have worn conſtantly nine or ten Weeks, not only fully anſwers it's purpoſe of keeping the Gut up, but ſits very eaſy, and is attended with little or no trouble.

J. BRAND.

Greenwich
Sept. 11*th* 1765.

ON the recommendation of Dr. Hunter, I made uſe of Mr. Brand's Eleſtick Truſs, to a Youth about Seven Years of Age who had been afflicted with a Scrotal Rupture for two or three Years; I had uſed in the courſe of that time ſeveral ineffectual

 means

means without ſucceſs: Yours he wore with great eaſe and intirely prevented any return of the Diſorder.

Witneſs my Hand this 27th Day of

Feb. 1766.

W. TAYLER,

Surgeon of the Dock-Yard, at *Woolwich.*

THESE are to Certify that I have ſeen Mr. Brand's Bandages for Ruptures, and that from the ſeveral opportunities I have had for them, find they anſwer better than any other I have had occaſion to uſe.

W. NORTON,

Navy Surgeon.

Strand
June 2*d* 1766.

This

THIS is to Certify that I have frequently Recommended Mr. Robert Brand, Truſs-Maker, whoſe Bandages always gave great Satisfaction to my Patients, and to me.

R. BROMFIELD.

Gerard-Street
July 18*th*. 1766.

THESE are to Certify that I have ſeen and carefully examined the Eleſtick Bandages for Ruptures, made by Mr. Robert Brand, of Peter-Street Weſtminſter, Truſs-Maker; and am of opinion that they are neat and ſtrong in their Conſtruction, very Ingenious in their Contrivance, and more peculiarly adapted to ſeveral purpoſes of a Truſs, than any other Bandage I have ever ſeen.

Given under my Hand, this 18th Day of *July* 1766.
St. Martin's-Lane.

C. KELLY.

HAVING made uſe of the Truſſes made by Mr. Brand; on ſome Patients afflicted with Ruptures, I think it no more than a piece of Juſtice due to his Ingenuity, to acknowledge, that they have ſucceeded very well in fulfilling the intention for which they were applied; nor have I ever ſeen any Truſſes which I ſhould perfer to them.

W. HEWSON.

Tichfield-Street
July 17th 1766.

THESE are humbly to Certify the Governours of the Royal Hoſpital at Greenwich, that I have ſeen ſeveral inſtances of Ruptures, where the Patients have unſucceſsfully made uſe of ſeveral Opperators Truſſes, which were Painful and Uneaſy to them; and afterwards being adviſed to uſe Mr. Brands Eleſtick ones; they found ſpeedy Eaſe, and no Pain therefrom; and for that reaſon, in my opinion, His deſerves the Preference of all other Truſſes.

T. POOLE.
Surgeon of the Royal Navy.

Savoy Auguſt. 29 1766.

I have

I have ſeen ſome Inſtances where Mr. Brand's Eleſtick Truſſes have been Succeſsfull where others have failed.

E. BARRY.

George-Street Hanover-Square
Auguſt 20*th* 1766.

I have ſeen ſome Inſtances where Mr. Brand's Elaſtick Truſſes have been Succeſsful, where others have failed, therefore I think they deſerve peculiar notice.

F. PINKSTON.

St. Alban's-Street
Auguſt 29*th* 1766.

Theſe

THESE are to Certify that I recommended a Patient to Mr. Brand, who had been afflicted from his Infancy with an Inquenall Rupture, and had tryed all means for a Cure, with the different ſort of Truſſes without Succeſs, giving him great Pain in wearing them, ſo that he was often obliged to leave them off, and his Rupture would as often come down; but after applying Mr. Brand's Truſs, he found to his great ſatisfaction, that he could wear it with great eaſe, and declared himſelf much obliged to the Ingenious Author of ſuch a Truſs, from which he had found ſo much relief.

As witneſs my Hand,

HUGH CRAWFORD.

Leiceſter-Fields
Auguſt 25th 1766.

THIS

THIS is to Certify that I have often examined and ſeen applied, Mr. Brand's Steel Truſſes, and that I do imagine that they are better adapted for the Cure of Ruptures than any that I have ſeen.

JOHN HUNTER.

Golden-Square
Auguſt 24 1766.

I hereby Certify, that after having recommended various ſorts of Truſſes to my Patients, I can find none ſo Eaſy to the Wearers, or ſo well adapted to the Relief of their Diſorders, as the Elaſtick Truſſes, made by Mr. Brand of Peter-Street, Weſtminſter.

C. HALE,

Parliament-Street
Auguſt 25 1766.

TO Mr. ROBERT BRAND,

TRUSS-MAKRR to his Majeſty's Royal Haſpital at Greenwich: At his Houſe in St. Martin's-Lane, near Charing-Croſs, London.

SIR,

THE Generoſity and Humanity with which you treated me, demand the moſt Grateful Acknowledgments, and nothing gives me more Concern than to think that neceſſity ſhould oblige me to leave London without being able to Pay you, as my Friend was not in Town, and the Ship going away. Therefore I muſt intreat you to be patient for a ſhort time, and you ſhall have no cauſe to complain. In the intrim I ſend you my Note for 2l. 10s. Payable in Six Months after Date, tho' the Sum I owe you is only 2l. 2s. And as I ſhall make a Remittance by the return of the Ship from South Carolina, to Mr. Edward Upton, in Paternoſter-Row, I ſhall deſire him at the ſame time to take up the Note. Permit me to aſſure you, Sir, that I ſhall ſpare no pains to recommend your

Truſſes

Truſſes in South Carolina: And in the mean time pleaſe to pay my Compliments to your good Spouſe and Son,

SIR,
I am with the greateſt Reſpect,

Your much obliged humble Servant,

G. SPENCER.

Deal
July 30th 1767.

IT is to be obſerved that Mr. Spencer was a Gentleman of the Clergy, and had a living in North America; and he being afflicted with a very large Femmenal Rupture, and had applied to ſeveral for relief without any ſucceſs, among whom was the Ingenious Mr. Blackey, of Paris, for about that time his Truſſes were ſold ſome where in London; accordingly Mr. Spencer applied their for relief, but Mr. Blackey applied a Truſs that was adapted

for a Groin Rupture on his Fammenal Rupture; however I made a proper Truſs for his Rupture, and applied thereon, which I had no ſooner done, and he finding that it would do its Office, he then deſired me to take it off, I aſked him why, he ſaid becauſe he had not Money ſufficient about him to Pay for it, and that his Friend was not in town, on which I told him I did not fear the Money, for as a Gentleman he would not wrong me. on which we parted and I never ſaw, nor heared from him till I received the Letter inſerted.

He remitted the Money, and I received it.

I ſhall here Conclude with ſome obſervaſions, which much ſuprize me, that in reading thoſe learned Authors who has hither to treated on Ruptures, and not finding any among them that has laid down proper Rules either for applying of Truſſes or reduſing of Ruptures; even the great Monro hath neglected it, and alſo ſome of a later date, who have received more Gain therefrom than any that ever attempted it before.

I ſhall

I ſhall only add, that provided I had been regularly bred a Surgeon, I doubt not but my Merit in Truſs-Making, would have been by this time as well known to all the World, as the Works of that Ingenious Sir Iſſac Newton.

There are ſome Eminent Surgeons who endeavour to bury my Truſſes in Obſcurity; and others I hope which will Expatiate as much on their real Merits, and make them ſhine forth through the Dark Cloud, for the Utillity of the Public in general.

FINIS.